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DATE: 29th June, 1961

COUNTRY: JORDAN

SUBJECT: Haj AMIN AL HUSAINI and the proposed parliamentary elections

DATE OF INFORMATION: Beginning of June 1961

SOURCE: A Jordanian official in touch with Sheikh SHAKKIYI

REMARKS:

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JORDAN

POLITICAL

Haj AMIN AL HUSSEINI and the Proposed Parliamentary Elections

1. ^{known} Shaikh MUHAMMAD AMIN SHANKITI, Jordanian Minister of Education, met Haj AMIN AL HUSSEINI, the ex-Emir of JERUSALEM, whilst they were both on a pilgrimage to MECCA. Haj AMIN AL HUSSEINI approached Shaikh SHANKITI and sought his views on the possibility of Haj AMIN's return to JERUSALEM on the grounds that only JORDAN of the Arab States now enjoyed freedom and stability.
2. Shaikh SHANKITI told Haj AMIN that he did not consider the present a suitable moment for his return to JORDAN and suggested that it would be advisable if Haj AMIN wrote to the King and sought his views. On his return to AMMAN Shaikh SHANKITI saw the King and told him about his encounter with Haj AMIN and his suggestion that this was a suitable time for Haj AMIN to return.
3. Shaikh SHANKITI added that prior to his departure on the pilgrimage he had received information that Haj AMIN's supporters in JORDAN were actively seeking to gain support for Haj AMIN with a view to putting up as many candidates as possible for the parliamentary elections which were expected to take place shortly.
4. Whilst on the subject of the forthcoming parliamentary elections Shaikh SHANKITI took the opportunity of advising the King that free elections would be unwise and that the Government should prepare a list of acceptable candidates in order to ensure that undesirable elements were not elected to parliament.
5. The King is reported to have since instructed the Prime Minister to make no statement about the subject without the King's prior approval.

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